

## **Istook Supports Marriage Amendment**

*Washington, D.C.* – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) made the following remarks today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of the Marriage Protection Amendment, a constitutional amendment defining marriage in the United States as a union of a man and a woman. The amendment failed to receive the necessary 2/3rds by a vote of 227-186.

**“I am here to speak in favor of the Marriage Protection Amendment, in favor of limiting marriage to the union of a man and a woman, in favor of the overwhelming opinion of the American people, and against the unelected judges that want to reshape our country, even if they destroy democracy in the process.**

**“Families and children deserve the protection of the Marriage Protection Amendment; the best home for kids is one with a mom and a dad. Single parents work valiantly to raise their children, but it’s a struggle whenever a child doesn’t have both a mom and a dad at home.**

**“Our laws should recognize and promote that stability in our homes.**

**“But when judges usurp the work of legislators—when they twist state and federal constitutions as they have on this issue—then they are attacking more than marriage. They are attacking the principles of democracy and undermining our republic. They are attacking the people’s ability to govern ourselves.**

**“No wonder it’s hard to raise children to respect and obey the law, when our judges don’t! Those who don’t respect the law should never be appointed as judges, and judges who don’t respect the law should be impeached.**

**“But today we have the opportunity to stand up both for marriage and for the people’s right to govern themselves. It’s sad that a constitutional amendment is necessary, but without it we will be under endless assault by those who want to destroy traditional marriage, even if they destroy the rule of law in the process.**

**“Even if you don’t respect the institution of marriage, I hope the members of this body will respect the principle of government of the people, for the people and by the people. This amendment preserves what has always been the law of the land, and it preserves the principle of government by elected representatives, not by unelected activist judges. I urge every Member to vote for the Marriage Protection Amendment.”**